

Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council
WORKING GROUP CHARTER:
Research & Information Management

Leader: Kai Umeda

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Members:	Elisabeth Lawaczeck	Ed Northam	Glen Knowles
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Date: July 19, 2007

Background:

The Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council (Council) shall develop a comprehensive statewide invasive species management plan for Arizona based upon the framework recommended in the report, "Arizona's Invasive Species Situation: unwanted plants and animals – June, 2006". As recommended in the Report, the framework shall center around five focal strategic concepts: 1) Leadership and Coordination, 2) Research and Information Management, 3) Anticipation and Outreach, 4) Control and Management, and 5) Funding. This comprehensive statewide invasive species management plan should also provide guidance and identify expertise for the recommendations outlined in the Report.

Mission:

To describe Research and Information Management needs and goals pertaining to invasive species policy and approaches in Arizona, and to develop a comprehensive statewide management plan component that outlines research and information management objectives and tasks to achieve those goals in Arizona.

Objectives:

1. Identify objectives and tasks that will facilitate coordination of research efforts to ensure an integrated statewide response to invasive species in Arizona.
 - a. Identify a process and list of criteria by which research needs are identified and prioritized. Describe what the review mechanism and/or triggers for review might be, and identify parties that should have a role/input into the review process (may consider adopting as part of a Council grant program; see Objective 2 below)
 - b. Identify representation and provide direction/guidelines for a task team that will

conduct a systematic review of past and present research efforts on invasive species issues in Arizona.

- i. Prioritize research needs into long and short term.
 - ii. Provide cost estimates for the needs outlined in (i).
 - iii. Recommend specific actions/needs to State agencies including the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Arizona Department of Agriculture, regarding prevention, response, control, management, restoration, and other areas based on the prioritization in 1(i).
 - c. Identify a framework by which to assemble information from research based activities into a web-based clearinghouse to allow better collaboration and sharing of information among researchers and managers, and recommend process owners for coordination, collection, and data management (also addressed in Objective 3).
 - d. Identify and recommend the role a Center for Invasive Species may plan in determining research objectives/needs (see Leadership and Coordination Objective 5(b)).
2. Create a grant program to address high priority research needs.
- a. Identify existing grant programs and recommend a framework and selection criteria that may be used to incorporate invasive species into these programs.
 - b. Identify specific recommendations for formulating new State grant programs and mechanisms targeted at addressing invasive species issues.
 - c. Identify objectives and a framework for securing and sub-granting federal grants by State agencies to address invasive species issues.
3. Identify a framework for a coordinated, up-to-date information management-sharing system.
- a. Identify specific information management and data mapping needs and functionality in order to best meet the needs of users (data collectors, data users, etc). Any databases designed or adopted pursuant to this management plan should be compatible and interoperable with other key State and federal databases. Data collected should meet minimum standards set by the North America Weed Management Association (NMWA) as appropriate, and products should be available to agencies, universities, regional planners, and others.
 - b. Research and review current data management systems to determine if a suitable database has already been created that would meet the data management and mapping needs for invasive species in Arizona. Identify alternative information management-sharing systems, and perform a cost-benefit analysis to identify and recommend which system could best meet the needs of Arizona.
 - c. Outline the steps required to obtain and implement a cross-jurisdictional, interactive database and mapping system (identified in 3(b)) and recommend key players and their responsibilities and roles.
4. Develop a model that will define how a Center for Invasive Species could coordinate, data and information transfer.
- a. Identify the role the Center for Invasive Species will play as a repository of

Technical Information, and in Database Mapping and recommend process owners for coordination, collection, and data management.

- b. Identify a framework by which information on invasive species prevention, detection, control, eradication, restoration and research results etc. can be quickly and effectively communicated to stakeholders and interested parties. Objectives may include 1) documenting and archiving: detection strategies, control or treatment methods, restoration methods, invasive species research literature, or other information, 2) facilitation communication by developing communication tools such as list-serve, developing collaboration networks for sharing information, alerts and stimulating action.
5. Identify other existing creative funding opportunities to assist with invasive species research and information management.

Scope/Limits of Responsibility:

1. The role of the Council is advisory. Recommendations to the Governor and to State agencies are weighty and may stimulate development of policy, approaches, and regulatory change. The Council does not have independent regulatory authority or rule-making responsibilities.
2. The definition of “Invasive Species” was adopted by the Governor. It is recognized as a broad definition, is open to broad interpretation, and is not intended to be regulatory because of its breadth. The definition is intended to provide counsel and guidance to State agencies and subdivisions of the State, the public, and our partners. The definition, as a recent adoption by the State, need not be debated further in the development of the plan.

Time Commitment:

The full council will meet monthly on the first Tuesday of each month following the first July 19, 2007 meeting until June 03, 2008. Development of the Research and Information Management component of the Invasive Species Management plan is scheduled to begin July 19, 2007 and be completed by October 02, 2007, after which it will be made available for public comment. It is anticipated that product development will largely occur outside of council meetings; therefore Working Group meetings will likely be necessary to complete assignments from this charter and tasks identified at monthly council meetings.

The Working Group leader or co-leader must notify the Council co-chairs or facilitator if problems are encountered, and especially if additional time is required to complete the assignment.

Products/Deliverables:

1. Using the template provided develop and write the Research and Information Management component of the management plan by October 02, 2007.
2. A list of agencies, stakeholders and interested persons with whom the working group will

communicate and coordinate, and a plan that details this coordination.

3. Provide a prioritized list of recommended actions, timelines, responsible parties, and cost estimates. A template implementation matrix will be provided for presentation of the recommendations.
4. Provide a list and brief overview of any case studies or examples for inclusion in the management plan that identify innovative strategies employed by other entities to address research and information management of invasive species issues at local, State, federal levels, or by universities, private organizations or any other entity.
5. Provide a summary of existing creative funding opportunities to assist with invasive species research and information management.
6. The Council co-chairs or the Council as a whole may suggest additional deliverables not listed in this charter. The Working Group may disagree with such a suggestion with a valid reason.

Other:

At its first meeting, the Council will discuss the Charter, and the facilitator or co-chairs will respond to any emergent issues or questions.

Working Group ground rules will also be drafted at the first meeting and will be incorporated into the Team Charter.